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FROM : AMEMBASSY, ACCRA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. DESP. NO. August 3, 1959 DATE

REF : Voluntary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDS
14 MAY 1982
DATE
RDS-3 EO 12.5 6/0.1
REVIEWED BY
AF-11 UK EP.1 E.7
RDS-1(A)(B)(C)(D)(E)(F)(G)(H) 1.5 OC 13-1
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SUBJECT: Volta River Project: Letter from the Prime Minister

In the Embassy's telegram No. 65, I informed the Department that I had received a letter dated July 31 from the Prime Minister who asked me to ascertain if it would be convenient for the Department to review the Volta River Project with the Minister of Finance, Mr. K. A. GBEDEMAH, when Mr. Gbedemah visits Washington early in October to attend the annual meeting of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The full text of the Prime Minister's letter is quoted below:

31st July, 1959.

My dear Ambassador,

I think that in a couple of months' time it would be advantageous if we could have a general review of the progress made in our efforts to bring the Volta River Project into operation.

As you know, Kaiser Industries have been consulting other aluminium producers with a view to forming a consortium which could establish a smelter in Ghana, and I am also aware - and appreciate - the efforts which the State Department has been making to help us.

You are aware of the action which my Government has taken to start certain preliminary works associated with the project and these should be very well advanced by the end of the year.

If acceptable to the United States Government, I believe that it would be very helpful to us if we could have a general review of the position about the end of September. At that time the Minister of Finance will be in Washington for the annual meetings of the I.B.R.D. and I.M.F., and it would be convenient if such a review could be made during the week commencing Monday, 5th October. If this time was also convenient to your Government, I would arrange for the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Chairman of the Development Commission to be available at the same time.

I should be grateful if you could let me know, in due course, whether this proposal would be acceptable to your Government.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,
/s/ Kwame Nkrumah

WCFlake/avb
REPORTER

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Telegram to Accra dated 8/4

Embassy Comment:

In the Embassy's G-62 of June 30, I reported that the Government of Ghana had commissioned Cooper Brothers, a firm of chartered accountants with headquarters in London, to prepare data needed to support an application for DLF help; that these data would be reviewed by Mr. George WOOD of the First Boston Corporation, New York; and that, with this work completed by the end of September, Mr. Gbedemah would hope to be in a position to make application for DLF assistance when he is in Washington for the IBRD meeting.

Since the Embassy's G-62 was dispatched, Sir Robert JACKSON, Chairman of the Development Commission, has visited London where he was joined by Mr. Chad CALHOUN, Vice President of the Kaiser Industries Corporation. Sir Robert and Mr. Calhoun made sure in London that Cooper Brothers understood what was needed and that Cooper Brothers would proceed immediately with the task. Since returning to Accra, Sir Robert has told me that he fully expects the task to be completed and reviewed by the time Mr. Gbedemah arrives in Washington.

I shall await word from the Department in answer to the Prime Minister's inquiry.

Wilson C. Flake

Wilson C. Flake
Ambassador

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